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WEDNESDAY
December 13, 2017

StarTribune

31° 20°
Light snow and ice, watch for slick spots. B8

TOP NEWS

EX-MPLS. COP GETS 6 MONTHS
Christopher Reiter committed "serious assault" while on duty, judge says at sentencing. **B1**

GOP closing in on tax deal
Last-minute negotiations bring Republicans close to a final deal. **A4**

Arctic heating up quickly
Scientists warn the region is warming much faster than rest of planet. **A2**

Brazil trying to halt HIV
Country hopes free preventive drug will stop rise in cases. **A3**

NYC bomber was terrorist
In charges, feds say motive "was no mystery." **A3**

LOCAL NEWS

Parents split on school year
Some Mpls. parents are OK with a shorter year; others are not. **B1**

Helping single moms succeed
Jeremiah Program CEO passes along lessons learned in childhood. **B1**

SPORTS

Backup goalie leads Wild
Alex Stalock fills in for Devan Dubnyk and Wild wins in a shootout. **C1**

Wolves lose to Sixers in OT
Minnesota's fast start doesn't last in 118-112 loss. **C1**

BUSINESS

3M expects strong 2018
3M CEO says U.S., China will lead company to continued growth. **C1**

VARIETY

Loft launching writers event
The writers center to host an annual two-day festival starting in 2019. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Merriam-Webster's said a spike in searches for the word "feminism" make it its word of the year. **A2**

Dayton set to choose Smith

Governor's decision comes a week after Sen. Al Franken said he would resign.

By J. PATRICK COOLICAN
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Gov. Mark Dayton will appoint Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to replace Sen. Al Franken as Minnesota's next U.S. senator, according to two high-level Democratic sources with knowledge of the decision.

Dayton will name Smith as his choice at a Wednesday morning news conference, and she plans to run for the seat in a 2018 special election, the sources said.

Franken announced last week his intention to resign after he was accused of improper conduct toward more than half a dozen women.

In selecting Smith, the governor is choosing one of his most trusted advisers and someone who has worked for years traveling the state and building relationships with influential DFLers and business leaders.

Lt. Gov. Tina Smith has been seen in recent years as a key part of Dayton's administration.

Smith was Dayton's first chief-of-staff after careers at General Mills, Planned Parenthood and the city of Minneapolis, where she was chief-of-staff to former Mayor R.T. Rybak.

"She's a person of intelligence and competence, and from what I've seen, she'd be a good campaigner and a good

See **APPOINT** on A8 ►

Firing spurs calls for inquiry

Whistleblower reprisal alleged at Health Dept.'s elder abuse division.

By CHRIS SERRES
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The Minnesota Department of Health has fired one of its top administrators, triggering fresh concerns about the agency's handling of allegations of criminal abuse in senior homes.

Nancy A. Omondi was terminated last month as director of the department's health regulation division, which oversees state investigations of abuse in senior care facilities. Omondi alleges she was fired in retaliation for filing a complaint about "misconduct and bullying" in her division, as well as high staff turnover, her attorney said Tuesday.

After her termination, Omondi approached Sen. Karin Housley, chairwoman of the state Senate Committee on Aging and Long-term Care, who on Tuesday joined two other senators in calling for an investigation into management practices at the division that handles elder complaints.

"[Omondi] desperately tried to get the attention of her superiors ... but it fell on deaf ears," Housley, a Republican from St. Marys Point near Afton, said at a news conference Tuesday. "What this whistleblower uncovered was a toxic culture of bullying, intimidation, harassment and complete disregard for outside input."

The call for a fresh investigation comes a month after the Star Tribune published a five-part series chronicling breakdowns in the state's handling of elder abuse investigations. The series found that hundreds of

See **FIRED** on A8 ►

Democrat Jones wins in stunning Alabama upset

Result in staunchly red state is rebuke to scandal-plagued Moore, Trump.

JOHN BAZEMORE • Associated Press
Democrat Doug Jones and his wife, Louise, waved to supporters before he gave a victory speech Tuesday in Birmingham, Ala.

By KIM CHANDLER and STEVE PEOPLES • Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, ALA. – In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election on Tuesday, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

It was the first Democratic Senate victory in a quarter-century in Alabama, one of the reddest of red states, and proved anew that party loyalty is anything but sure in the age of Trump. The Republican loss was a major embarrassment for the president and a fresh wound for the nation's already divided GOP.

"We have shown not just around the state of Alabama, but we have shown the country the way — that we can be unified," Jones declared as supporters in a Birmingham ballroom cheered, danced and cried tears of joy. Still in shock, the Democrat struggled for words: "I think that I have been waiting all my life, and now I just don't know what the hell

See **ALABAMA** on A5 ►

MIKE STEWART • Associated Press
Roy Moore spoke to supporters in Montgomery after the votes were counted Tuesday, telling them, "It's not over."

Looking ahead: Upset threatens GOP agenda. **A5**

Trump attacks Gillibrand and his accusers

Senator says president's tweet is a "sexist smear."

By MICHAEL TACKETT and EILEEN SULLIVAN
New York Times

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump aggressively returned to the issue of sexual harassment Tuesday, again dismissing his own accusers as fabricators and attacking a female Democratic senator as a "lightweight" who "would do anything" for campaign contributions.

Gillibrand

The president's attacks came in early morning Twitter posts after three of the accusers had come forward Monday to renew their charges from last year that Trump had sexually assaulted them before he entered politics, and after Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., had called for him to resign.

While Trump weathered the accusations during his presidential campaign, the flood

See **TRUMP** on A8 ►

NFL'S TIME FOR SUPER PREP IS WILD CARD

Even one home playoff game for the home team slices league's time to gussy up stadium.

By ROCHELLE OLSON
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Reading this story will not jinx anything.

So here it is: Despite Sunday's loss, the Minnesota Vikings are still contending for home-field advantage during the playoffs, and the better the 10-3 Vikings do, the more headaches they create for their NFL parent, which is hosting the Super Bowl at U.S. Bank Stadium on Feb. 4.

A Vikings home game in January would slash by more than half the five weeks the NFL has to reconfigure, remake and deck out the building for the Super Bowl. The league is scheduled to take over the building Jan. 2 and has big plans for it, from adding space for media to adding coat racks to some repainting.

"Everything is 'bigger and more' compared to a regular season or even a game in the playoffs," said Eric Finkelstein, senior director of event operations for the NFL. "Before the stadium was even built, we've been making trips out to Minnesota to see how everything would fit."

Should the Vikings get

See **STADIUM** on A8 ►

LEILA NAVIDI • leila.navidi@startribune.com
The NFL will take over U.S. Bank Stadium and typically needs several weeks to get things just right for its title game.